

SPECIFICATION - REDUCING TREAD SEPARATION IN TIRES

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION



This summary describes two improvements for manufacturing continuous synthetic filaments woven into yarns and cords used in tire manufacturing, and an additional treatment for steel wire strands also used in tire manufacturing. Continuous synthetic filaments are improved through use of laser-pierced smaller diameter holes in spinnerets, through which viscous fluids flow, and the addition of continuous wave or pulsed sonic generators at the back of spinneret housings both of which produce surface irregularities in the smooth synthetic filaments producing cords with stronger cord-to-rubber bonding thus reducing tread separation in tires. Acid etching of steel wire strands used in tire manufacturing also increases steel-to-wire bonding with further reduction in tread separation in tires especially when subjected to higher speeds over bumpy roads.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF INVENTION

This invention describes two improvements in present production lines for manufacturing continuous synthetic filaments (for examples, nylon and kevlar) that are woven into yarns and cords used in tire manufacturing

The first improvement uses spinnerets, through which viscous fluids flow, with smaller diameter holes made by tiny laser-beams replacing presently used spinnerets with larger diameter holes made by mechanical drills. The smaller diameter holes being irregular in shape, similar to those made by a welding torch in steel, form continuous filaments with corresponding surface irregularities resulting in stronger cord-to-rubber bonding thus reducing tread separation and extending tire life.

Installing sonic generators of optimum frequency (continuous or pulsed) of very low amplitude in the rear of spinneret housings produce circumferential ridges and valleys in the spun filaments with further increases in cord-to-rubber bonding and resultant reduced tread separation in tires. These sonic generators can also be added to present production lines to reduce tread separation in tires.

Acid etching of steel wires at the end of current production lines also help reduce tread separation in tires. The wire strands are loosely wound in coils and immersed in an acid bath for an optimal period of time to produce an etched glass appearance. They are next immersed in a caustic solution, then washed and dried. The resulting stronger steel strands-to-rubber bonding further reduces tread separation in tires. This treatment can also be used in present production lines to produce stronger steel strands-to-rubber bonding thus reducing tread separation in tires.

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